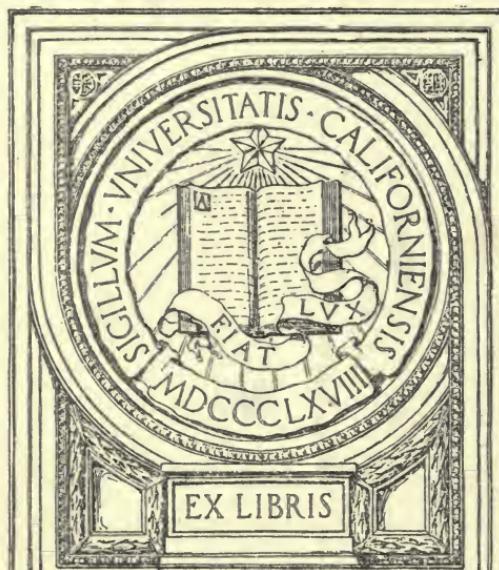


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THE HARMON GYMNASIUM.

LETTER OF MR. HARMON.

OAKLAND, January 20th, 1879.

To the Honorable,

The Board of Regents of the University of California.

GENTLEMEN:

Some four months since it was suggested to me by Mr. George C. Edwards, that if I felt so inclined, I could do for the young men at the University, that which would be of much profit and pleasure to them, and probably acceptable to the ruling authorities, if I would construct on the University grounds a building to be used as a gymnasium, and on extra University occasions, as an auditorium.

Upon this suggestion, and upon the realization of the fact that there were many reasons why the University stood in the immediate need of a building for these purposes, I caused plans to be drawn for such a building.

The structure, as then considered, met the approval of those members of your Honorable Board, and other gentlemen to whom the plans were shown.

The tender of such a building having been accepted by the Board, and a very accessible site chosen, work was immediately commenced, and the building pushed to as speedy a completion as good construction would permit. The only changes from the original plans that have been made were by way of improvement, particularly the putting in of a gallery with permanent seats, and the construction of a movable platform.

The building is completed, and I herewith have the honor of presenting the same to the University of California, through you, its very worthy Board of Regents. I also herewith present to you insurance policies, duly re-

ceipted, and to the amount of ten thousand dollars on the building and fixtures, for three years.

My hope is that the building will confer the benefits which the many friends of the enterprise predict. It has been constructed particularly for the young men, present and to come. In the fact of the annual change of a portion of the students, I see an element which will tend to perpetuate interest and diffuse benefits.

In turning over the keys to the University authorities, I impose no conditions whatever. I hope, however, that the property will be well preserved, and that the prime object of its construction, viz., for a gymnasium, will not be lost sight of. It is earnestly recommended that the young men be cautioned with regard to violent exercises. It is also recommended that the ordinary affairs of the gymnasium be directed by a committee, composed partly of members of the Faculty, and partly of students from the various classes. It is also recommended that the students organize themselves into an association, properly officered and governed by a suitable set of by-laws, in order to secure a certain reasonable amount of exercise from each of its members, in order to better protect the property from injury, and in order to prevent the room from becoming a general lounging room.

It is hoped that the young men will secure the services of an excellent instructor, entitled to their respect. With such an instructor, the weaker parts of the body may be built up, and liability to falls or strains much lessened.

It is hoped that a portion of the apparatus will be gotten by the young men, with particular reference to the ladies, and that suitable hours be assigned to them for the cultivation of symmetry and strength.

Feeling assured that the building just constructed will satisfy a very decided want at the University, I remain, gentlemen,

Yours most respectfully,

A. K. P. HARMON.

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